

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 /076 W

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R 121539Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8601

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN WEEKEND SOVIET MEDIA

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF ANGOLA AND THE OAU OVER THE WEEKEND RETAINED SOUTH AFRICA AS THE PRINCIPAL TARGET, AND DEVOTED SOME SPACE TO EVENTS IN ADDIS ABABA. PRAVDA ACCENTUATED THE POSITIVE BY CONCENTRATING ON THE VARIOUS ATTEMPTS TO HAVE THE ENTIRE OAU RECOGNIZE THE MPLA REGIME, AND BY GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT A PRO-MPLA BANDWAGON WAS DEVELOPING. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S AUTHORITATIVE INTERNATIONAL WEEK (JAN 11) CONCENTRATED ON CRITICIZING THE "INTERVENTION" AGAINST THE "GOVERNMENT OF THE MPLA," AND CLAIMED THAT 23 AFRICAN STATES HAVE NOW RECOGNIZED THIS REGIME. THE AUTHOR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YULIY YAKHONTOV, MENTIONED THE OAU SUMMIT, AND ASSERTED THAT

SUMMIT'S TASK IS FINDING MEANS TO ENSURE THE "SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY" OF ANGOLA. YAKHONTOV RETAINED SOUTH AFRICA AS HIS PRINCIPAL TARGET, BUT HE ALSO HIT HARD AT ALLEGED CIA MISDEEDS IN ANGOLA. ELSEWHERE, PRAVDA CONCENTRATED ON THE OAU SUMMIT, AND CLAIMED THAT NIGERIA IS TRYING HARD TO HAVE THE "GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA" SEATED. PRAVDA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES STILL SUPPORT THE ANTI-MPLA FACTIONS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES ARE IGNORING THE ALLEGED ALLIANCE WHICH THESE GROUPS HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

3. PRAVDA'S JANUARY 12 COVERAGE OF THE OAU SUMMIT LED WITH MACHEL'S REPORTED CALL FOR OAU RECOGNITION OF THE "GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA." PRAVDA ADDED THAT THE GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ALREADY RECOGNIZED THE MPLA REGIME MADE A UNITED CALL FOR SIMILAR ACTION BY THE OAU AND FOR THE GRANTING OF A SEAT TO THE "LEGITIMATE" GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA. PRAVDA ADMITTED THAT THE FIRST DAY'S SESSION INDICATED THAT "NOT ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOLD A UNITED POSITION" IN CONNECTION WITH THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA. FINALLY, PRAVDA CARRIED A FAIRLY BRIEF TASS ITEM REPORTING THE NIGERIAN REJECTION OF THE AMERICAN DEMARCHE, AND REPEATED LAGOS' CALL FOR ALL AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO REJECT IT.

4. COMMENT. SO FAR, THE MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE OAU SUMMIT HAS BEEN RATHER SPARE, AND HAS PROVIDED LITTLE INDICATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WE PRESUME ARE TAKING PLACE. THE OVERALL TONE OF THE PRESS TREATMENT HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS OPTIMISTIC (FROM THE SOVIET VIEWPOINT), BUT THIS COULD CHANGE IF THE ALLEGED PRO-MPLA BANDWAGON BOGS DOWN.

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